

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6622

S E C R E T CAIRO 11764

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, US

SUBJ: CALL OF CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) AMBASSADOR

REF (A) STATE 204716, (B) CAIRO 10862,

1. AFTER SEVERAL FALSE STARTS, CONGOLESE AMB MOPOLO-DADET CALLED ON ME TODAY. ASSERTING HIS INITIATIVE WAS "PERSONAL", AND THAT IF BRAZZAVILLE KNEW ABOUT IT HE WOULD BE RECALLED AND PROBABLY ARRESTED, HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE SON OF THE FIRST CONGOLESE AMB TO THE US. HIS FATHER HAD BEEN IN WASHINGTON AND AT UN BETWEEN 1960 AND 1963, AND HE HIMSELF HAD GONE TO FRENCH SCHOOLS IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. HE HAD RECEIVED HIS UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN FRANCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE IS A MARXIST AND A MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE HAD HELD VARIOUS SENIOR JOBS IN THE COMMITTEE AND IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. MOST RECENTLY, JUST BEFORE COMING TO EGYPT IN NOV OF LAST YEAR, HE HAD BEEN ROVING AMB AND ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE OVER ANGOLA. HE WAS GIVING ME THIS INFO TO ESTABLISH HIS CREDENTIALS. HE ALSO ASSERTED HE HAD THRICE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AN OFFICER OF EMBASSY PARIS NAMED MELLON.

2. MOPOLO-DADET THE CONTINUED THAT HE AND OTHER LIKEMINDED CONGOLESE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (UNIDENTIFIED), DEPLORED THE LACK OF RELATIONS WITH THE US.

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HE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE A WRONG IMPRESSION. US POLICY TOWARD

AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS HAD IN THE PAST BEEN CENSURABLE, BUT HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE RECENT MORE POSITIVE CHANGES. THE SITUATION IN CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) IS BAD. ALTHOUGH THE GOVT SAYS IT IS A SOCIALIST STATE, ONLY EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF THE ECONOMY IS UNDER THE GOVT'S CONTROL. THE COUNTRY IS BANKRUPT AND HAS NO MONEY. LAST MONTH'S WAGES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS COULD ONLY BE PAID BY USING A FRENCH LOAN INTENDED FOR PROJECT PURPOSES AND NO ONE KNOWS WHERE NEXT MONTH'S CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES WILL COME FROM. MOST OF THE PEOPLE -- APART FROM THE INTELLIGENTSIA--DO NOT KNOW WHAT SOCIALISM IS AND SIMPLY REPEAT BY ROTE WHAT THEIR TRIBAL LEADERS SAY IT IS. SOCIALISM, SUCH AS IT IS, HAS BROUGHT THE COUNTRY TO THE BRINK OF RUIN. TRIBALISM IS STILL RAMPANT AND THE PRESIDENT'S TRIBE IS GARNERING ALL THE MAJOR POSITIONS.

3. THE CONGOLESE, ACCORDING TO MOPOLO-DADET, HAVE BEGUN TO ASK THEMSELVES WHY SHOULD A REVOLUTIONARY GOVT FIND IT INCOMPATIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE US. THE US IS THE LEADING ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POWER IN THE WORLD TODAY. RELATIONS WITH THE US NEED NOT ALTER THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONGOLESE GOVT. CONGO'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER IS THE SOVIET UNION (NO LONGER THE PRC), BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ASSIST THE COUNTRY WITH THE HELP IT NEEDS. IN ANY CASE, RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE RELATIONS WITH THE US.

4. THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES ARE BEING INCREASINGLY QUESTIONED BY SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MOPOLO-DADET AMONG THEM. THIS DISCONTENT WILL CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT IT WILL RESULT IN A MILITARY COUP. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, A CHANGE OF GOVT MIGHT BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY WHAT HE CALLED A POPULAR "WORKERS" MOVEMENT. HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN OR EXACTLY HOW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, BUT EXPECTED SOME SUCH DEVELOPMENT BEFORE LONG. HE WANTED US BLESSINGS AND ULTIMATE SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MOVEMENT. CONCEDED THAT WE MIGHT CONSIDER HIS CALL SIMPLY AS PROVOCATION, HE SUGGESTED WE CHECK OUT WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME THROUGH OUR MEANS. USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO "MAKE ITSELF OFFICIALLY FELT" IN CONGO AT THE PROPER TIME. HE VOLUNTEERED TO KEEP US POSTED ON DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE ANY INDICATION OF USG REACTION.

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5. I TOLD MOPOLO-DADET THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS REMARKS. HE WOULD APPRECIATE, I WAS SURE, THAT I WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THE MATTER HE HAD RAISED. SHOULD THERE BE ANY REPLY, I WOULD LET HIM KNOW. IN RESPONSE MOPOLO-DADET'S REQUEST WHETHER HE MIGHT KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME, I SAID HE WAS WELCOME TO CALL AT ANY TIME.

6. COMMENT: I AM UNABLE TO EVALUATE MOPOLO-DADET'S INFO.
HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE REPRESENTS ANY IDENTIFIABLE
GROUP OTHER THAN DISGRUNTLED MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
AND, PRESUMABLY, OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. I WOULD APPRECIATE
INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT, IF ANYTHING, DEPT WISHES ME TO
REPLY TO THE CONGOLESE AMB.
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